

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-05 SP-02 AID-05 SCS-02

SCA-01 L-01 DODE-00 IGA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 /059 W

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O R 111818Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8312

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4376

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, HO

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ' VIEW ON RELIEF MEASURES

1. ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 11, AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ MET WITH CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ TO DISCUSS GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF MEASURES. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF DIRECT APPEALS FOR HELP FROM SUCH PEOPLE AS HENRY HOLST, MAYOR OF SAN PEDRO SULA. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED TO MAYOR HOLST THAT THE U.S. POSTURE IS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. LOPEZ SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE AMBASSADOR'S POSITION AND REMARKED THAT HE WAS ABLE TO COMPLY WITH SOME OF HOLST'S REQUESTS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SAN PEDRO SULA.

2. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PUTTING THE ROAD NET BACK INTO REPAIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MOVE RELIEF SUPPLIES TO ISOLATED AREAS. LOPEZ AGREED AND SAID THE GOH IS WORKING ON THAT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE TIME IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

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WHEN THE PHASE DOWN OF U.S. MILITARY RELIEF EFFORTS IS

NECESSARY AND PROPOSED A PLAN IN THAT REGARD (SEE TEGUCIGALPA 4364). LOPEZ READILY AGREED TO THE PHASE DOWN AND RECOGNIZED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME GRUMBLING ABOUT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL OF HELICOPTERS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE COMING WEEK SHOULD SEE A TURNOVER OF CONTROL OF OUR RELIEF ACTIVITIES FROM U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO AID EMPLOYEES.

3. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE HAD SOME IDEAS FOR CONTINUING A FLOW OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FROM THE U.S. TO HONDURAS EVEN THOUGH THE DISASTER IS RAPIDLY FADING FROM WORLD PRESS. HE SUGGESTED THAT A HIGH LEVEL GOH OFFICIAL MEET AN EARLY INCOMING SHIP TO DRAMATIZE THE FACT THAT AID IS STILL BEING RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN SOURCES. LOPEZ SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE U.S.G. WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO FURTHER HONDURAN NEEDS ARISING FROM THE DISASTER. LOPEZ EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR U.S. RESPONSIVENESS AND HELP.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CHIEF OF STATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI04376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740290-0333
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741050/aaaabqze.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ' VIEW ON RELIEF MEASURES
TAGS: SWEL, HO, (LOPEZ), (SANCHEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005